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LETTER DATED 15 SEPTEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINA AND NEW ZEALAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We are writing to request, in accordance with Rule 2 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, that you call a meeting of the Security Council, to consider various procedural questions that concern the operation of the Council.

We should be grateful if you would request the Secretary-General to bring this letter to the attention of all representatives on the Security Council and to circulate it as a document of the Security Council.

You will recall that during the month of April the Security Council Working Group considered a number of proposals designed to improve the procedures that the Council employs in its consideration of peace-keeping matters. In particular, the Council considered the need for consultation with interested States, especially with troop-contributing countries, and the need to further improve briefing procedures for Security Council members.

In the statement by the President of the Security Council on 3 May 1994 (S/PRST/1994/22), the Security Council stated it would keep such matters under review.

You will recall that it had been our view that institutionalizing new mechanisms would be desirable. Others were of the view that informal procedures would suffice. We believe that the practice of the Council on these issues over the past four months has not shown the improvement which we think is necessary. We may well need, in due course, to return to the proposal that new procedural steps be somehow institutionalized. However, before doing so we wish to explore a different alternative to improve procedures without going to that point.

We propose therefore that the Council decide to structure certain procedures, as follows:

(a) To improve its internal procedure the President or a member of his delegation would convene on a weekly basis an informal working group of the members of the Council to review the "Weekly Digest of Peace-keeping Missions".

The Group would be convened on a more regular basis as necessary if and when daily situation reports from DPKO suggested this was desirable. Staff from DPKO would be invited to participate in this meeting.

(b) To provide for appropriate consultation with countries outside the Council

- The President of the Council (or a member of his delegation) would convene, normally in the second week of every month, informal discussions involving the members of the Council and all troop-contributing countries to review the "Digest of Peace-keeping Missions" produced weekly by DPKO and the monthly forecast of the Council's programme of work. An agenda for the meeting would be circulated a week in advance.

- In the event that this regular meeting revealed areas of substantial concern which warranted further discussion the Presidency would convene specific "ad hoc" meetings of the troop-contributing countries involved in the operation in question.

- Where specific meetings are convened as envisaged above, the President would consider also inviting to participate in the ad hoc meetings neighbouring or regional States whose interests are or may be specially affected.

- Representatives of the Secretary-General would be requested to participate in the regular and specific meetings and invited to brief delegations and respond to questions, as appropriate.

Our delegations are ready to present to the Council a draft text that would enable the Council to decide to systematize its procedure along the lines we have suggested herein. Such a decision should be in the form of either a resolution or a statement by the President.

(Signed) C. R. KEATING
Permanent Representative
of New Zealand

(Signed) E. J. CARDENAS
Permanent Representative
of Argentina